

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-21, and 23-36 are all the pending in this application. Claims 17, 23, 24, 25, 30, 32, and 33 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 21, 26-29, 31, and 34-36 have been withdrawn by the Examiner.

I. Formal Matters

The Examiner indicated that the title is not descriptive. The title has been amended to the following: --DRIVING SYSTEM FOR COLOR IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS--.

The Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 20 are duplicative claims. Applicant has cancelled claim 20.

The Examiner requested that claims 22-25, 30, 32, and 33 be rewritten in independent form, since their base claims were withdrawn. Claims 23-25, 30, 32, and 33 have been so rewritten.

Applicant has herein corrected the informalities and believes that all of the Examiner's concerns have been addressed.

II. Prior Art Rejections: Claims 1, 3, 5, 14-16, and 18-20

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 14-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ito (U.S. Patent 6,148,163) in view of JP 59-204860.

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 14-16, and 18-20 as discussed below.

A. Claims 1, 3, and 5

Claim 1 is herein amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claim 1 now requires that each of the transmitters comprises a step-up gear.

The Examiner conceded that Ito does not teach or suggest “a plurality of transmitters for transmitting a drive force from the image supporter to its associated charging member”. (Office Action, page 3). Thus, the Examiner applied JP 59-204860.

However, JP 59-204860 fails to teach or suggest the features of herein amended claim 1, as JP 59-204860 uses pulleys 8 and 9 to rotate a conductive brush 2, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2, but does not disclose a step-up gear, as recited in claim 1. Even combined, Ito and JP 59-204860 cannot be said to render obvious independent claim 1. Consequently, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3 and 5 are allowable, and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this § 103 rejection of claims 1, 3, and 5.

B. Claims 14-16, and 18-20

Independent claim 14 requires:

a plurality of brush rollers, each of which is brought into contact with an associated one of the image supporters to charge the same; and
a transmitter, operable to transmit a driving force of one of the image supporters to each of the brush rollers.

The Examiner alleged that Ito col. 4, lines 39-44 teaches the motor 54 will drive both the image supporters and the charging rollers via a gear train or belt train. The Examiner further alleged, “Thus a single transmitter will transmit a drive force to each of the image supports and associated charge rollers.” (Office Action, page 3).

Ito teaches that “The motor 54 drives in rotation the registry rollers 30 and 31, photoconductive body 6, charging roller 7, developing roller 3a, sponge roller 8c, transfer roller 4, drive roller 10, and heat roller 36 of each of the print engines P1-P4. A gear train or belts, not shown link the rollers driven by the motor 54.” (col. 4, lines 39-44).

However, Ito fails to teach or suggest at least transmitting a driving force of one of the image supporters to each of the brush rollers, as recited in claim 14. That is, Ito does not teach or suggest that the driving force of one photoconductive body 6 drives each of the charging rollers 7. As shown in Fig. 1 of Ito, no one photoconductive body 6 is able to drive each of the four charging rollers 7.

Incidentally, JP 59-204860 fails to teach or suggest that each photosensitive body 1 drives every conductive brush 2. (*See*, Figs. 1 and 2). JP 59-204860 was applied for its teaching about a conductive brush and thus, JP 59-204860 does not compensate for the deficiencies of Ito.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the combined teachings of Ito and JP 59-204860 do not render obvious the subject matter of claim 14. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this § 103 of independent claim 14, along with its dependent claims 15, 16, and 18-20.

III. Prior Art Rejections: Claims 4, 22, 24, 30, and 32

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 22, 24, 30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ito (U.S. Patent 6,148,163) in view of JP# 59-204860 as applied to claim 1, 3, 5, 14-16, 18-20 above, and further in view of Takayama (JP# 2000-356876). Applicant respectfully traverses the §103(a) rejection of claims 4, 22, 24, 30, and 32.

A. Claim 4

Regarding claim 4, Ito and JP 59-204860 are deficient vis-à-vis claim 1. Takayama, applied for its teaching regarding image transfer, does not compensate for the deficiencies of Ito and JP-204869. Therefore, since claim 4 depends from allowable claim 1, claim 4 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1. Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 4.

B. Claims 24 and 32

Analogous to the foregoing remarks for claim 14, the combination of Ito and JP 59-204860 fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 24 and 32.

Claim 24 requires:

wherein the driver comprises a transmitter, operable to transmit a driving force of one of the image supporters associated with a black toner image to each of the brush rollers.

Claim 32 requires:

wherein the driver comprises a plurality of transmitters, each of which is operable to transmit a driving force of an associated one of the developing rollers to an associated one of the brush rollers, which are not used for the monochrome image formation.

As discussed above with regard to claim 14, neither Ito nor JP 59-204860 transmits a driving force of the developing rollers to the brush rollers, as recited in claims 24 and 32.

Takayama, applied for its teaching regarding monochrome and full-color mode, does not compensate for the deficiencies of Ito and JP 59-204860. Even combined, the teachings of Ito, JP 59-204860, and Takayama do not render obvious the subject matter of claims 24 and 32.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 24 and 32.

C. Claim 30

Claim 30 is rewritten in independent form to include the allowable subject matter of claim 33. Herein amended claims 30 requires that “each of the transmitters comprises a step-up gear”.

The combined teachings of Ito, JP 59-204860, and Takayama fail to teach or suggest a step-up gear, as recited in claim 30. Thus, claim 30 is allowable over the prior art, and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection of claim 30.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner allowed claims 6-13 over the prior art of record.

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 17, 23, 25, and 33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would allow them if rewritten in independent. Applicant has so rewritten claims 17, 23, 25, and 33 in independent form. Accordingly, claims 17, 23, 25, and 33 are allowable.

V. Conclusion

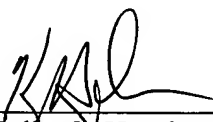
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/659,700

Attorney Docket No. Q77453

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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